



## “EXTRA HELP” WITH EPIC & MEDICARE

Beginning **January 1, 2006**, Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage through prescription drug plans. Many EPIC enrollees will be able to save more by joining a Medicare drug plan and using it with their EPIC coverage. Those with limited income and resources should apply for “Extra Help” with the Medicare drug benefit, which provides savings.

### WHAT IS “EXTRA HELP”?

If you have Medicare and have limited income and resources, you may qualify for “Extra Help” paying for your prescription drugs. With “Extra Help”, you will not pay any premiums or deductibles for your Medicare drug coverage. You will only pay a co-payment of \$2 for generic drugs and \$5 for brand-name drugs.

### HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR “EXTRA HELP”?

- ✗ Annual income in 2005 below \$12,920 if single or \$17,321 for a married couple.
- ✗ Resources no greater than \$7,500 for a single person and \$12,000 for a married couple. (Examples of resources are: savings accounts, stocks, bonds, CDs, IRAs, and other funds.)
- ✗ If your income or resources are higher, you may qualify for some “Extra Help” in paying for any premiums, deductible, and co-payments.

### CAN I KEEP MY EPIC COVERAGE?

- ✗ Yes, you can keep your EPIC coverage.
- ✗ Your EPIC enrollment fees will be waived if you qualify for “Extra Help” and join a Medicare drug plan.
- ✗ EPIC can be used to cover drugs that may not be covered by your Medicare drug plan.
- ✗ By using EPIC and Medicare together, you will pay the lowest possible co-payment.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- ✗ During the summer of 2005, the Social Security Administration will mail an *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs* to people who may qualify.
- ✗ Please complete the application and mail it back to Social Security as soon as possible.
- ✗ Social Security will let you know if you qualify for “Extra Help”.
- ✗ You should enroll in a Medicare drug plan between November 15 and December 31, 2005.
- ✗ EPIC will be glad to help you apply for “Extra Help” and enroll in a Medicare drug plan.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:



EPIC 1-800-332-3742



Social Security 1-800-772-1213



Medicare 1-800-633-4227